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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

February 19, 19 1

Ms. Claire Randall
General Secretary
National Council of Churches of Christ
in the U.S.A.
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Dear Ms. Randall:

I am replying to your letter of January 29 to President Reagan in which you and your fellow church leaders expressed your concern over the current political situation in Korea.

As you know, the United States Government welcomed President Chun's January 23 decision to commute the death sentence against opposition politician Kim Dae Jung. We noted too that other Korean dissidents have been released recently from confinement including Korean poet Kim Chi-ha and Dr. Yun In-ho, a co-defendant of Kim Dae Jung's. Further, in January most persons purged from employment in government, academic and media circles during the turmoil last year were again declared eligible to return to their professions. President Chun in remarks following his speech to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. stated that press censorship would be lifted with the ending of the fifteen month long martial law.

We are pleased by the spirit of reconciliation embodied in these recent actions and hopeful that such measures will contribute positively to the continuing development of representative Korean institutions and the strengthening of Korean-American relations.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Rich
Director of Korean Affairs

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